



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
Chairman

BUDGET HEARINGS BOARDS & COMMISSIONS TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

RICHARD J. CLEARY
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
MICHAEL D. VARNEY
JOSEPH E. WEHR

Members Present: R. Clements-Chmn, R. Cleary, M. Joyse, M. Varney, J. Wehr

Members Absent: B. Pinto

Others Present: N. DiCorleto-Fin Off, P. Potamianos-Budget Advisory

Opening Statement

Chairman Robert Clements opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. He stated that we are all facing dire economic times.

Citizens Forum – NONE

Hearings:

Crystal Lake Fire Dept.

Chief Pippin told the Board that the department's proposed budget has no increase. They moved \$3,000 out of the education account to offset increases in other accounts and keep the bottom line at zero increase.

Ellington Volunteer Fire Dept.

Asst. Chief Levandoski presented this budget with a zero increase. They have added nothing new in the budget. The vehicle repair and heating fuel accounts were increased but the SARA Education, building equipment and town wide maintenance fund were reduced to offset the increases. Mr. Clements asked what the status of the heating fuel account would be at the end of the fiscal year. They stated that it would be a little over and that they used a 5-year usage average for the 2009-10 budget. Mr. Cleary asked about the estimated actuals being over the budgeted amount, and Mr. Varney stated that the revenue from the sale of the hoses would be used to balance these accounts.

E911

J. Turner, 911 Coordinator, stated that this request is zero increase. He also moved some funds to offset increases. The population of Ellington has increased but the per person charge by the

dispatch center has not changed. The status of the reverse 911 system is still in question. He does not anticipate any funding for it in 2009-10.

Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

President Peter Hany told the Board that his budget has a 1.6% increase. The 240 account includes two wireless cards for their laptops so they can do their write ups at the hospital. The electricity, water and propane accounts have been increased to account for the building addition. There is money in the 766 account for furniture and fixtures for the addition. These items were not included in the bid for the addition. Mr. Varney asked why the furniture was not put in the capital improvements budget. The Finance Officer stated that the Board could take it out of the operating budget at deliberations and put in into capital improvements. This will be offset by the charging fund.

Hall Memorial Library

Library Director Sue Phillips presented this budget. She stated that the only increased line item was in the fuel oil. She also stated that she is anticipating that some of the overages for the current budget year will be funded by the State. The overage in part time help was questioned, and she stated that because of the increased traffic, she had to have part time coverage for vacations. Many of the employees are now eligible for four weeks of vacation per year. She is budgeting for this in the 09-10 budget. She stated that activity is up 10% and there are many people now requiring help with setting up e-mail addresses to apply for jobs on line.

Parks & Recreation

Robert Tedford, Recreation Director, told the Board that there will be fee increases in the swim lessons and the T-Ball. There will be an increase in the 510 account for front desk/secretarial coverage if the department moves out of its present location. He is projecting a revenue increase to 66.97% if his department does not move to another location. He stated that the waterfront receipts were up last year due to good weather and the non-resident receipts.

Mr. Cleary asked him what the impact would be if the department remained where they are for the next year. He stated that there would be no expansion of programs and they would survive. Mr. Cleary asked him about the long term plan, and Mr. Tedford stated that the Board of Selectmen has his plan.

Ellington Ad Hoc Substance Free Graduation Party

Linda Harrell and Karen Daigle representing this ad hoc committee stated that they are asking for a budget from the town in the amount of \$5,000 to supplement their fund raising. They are finding that the funds are not coming in as they had been in the past. With donations down, the start up for next year will be lower than in previous years. There are also more students; they are projecting 196 graduates for 2009 compared to 170 in 2007. They are projecting a cost of \$20,000 for this year's party. The committee hopes to get back to being self-sufficient.

They are on a waiting list to get a food concession booth at Renssealer Field in E. Hartford for UCONN games.

Mr. Clements stated that his opinion is that if the town starts to fund this volunteer effort, it will thwart their efforts to be completely autonomous from the town. Mr. Joyse felt that the Board of Education should not be charging for custodial and other items. Mr. Wehr agreed. Mr. DiCorleto stated that the Board of Education wanted nothing to do with this party when it originated, and that Ellington is one of the few towns where the finance officer accounts for the funds.

Human Services, Senior Center, Youth Services

Doris Crayton, Human Services Director, stated that when the economy is slow, her requests increase. Her department's 2009-10 budget addresses the youth with a Prevention Coordinator and the elderly with increased van time and a new van. The Dial-A-Ride projected cut backs will increase the van usage and additional hours will be needed. There is an increase in contracted staff if the Recreation Dept moves out of the building.

Mr. Wehr asked if there is enough work to keep a secretary busy. Mrs. Crayton stated that there is phone screening as well as walk-ins. Mr. Varney asked how the State cut backs will affect her department. She stated that it will affect the transportation services to Johnson Memorial and to Enfield.

Erin Graziani, Sr. Center Director told the Board that there is one van and they feel it needs to be replaced. They have a back up automobile that they share with the Elderly Outreach Services and sometime they borrow the Planning Dept. vehicle. There are two drivers and two part time transportation secretaries. In 2008, they made 2, 433 trips or about 8 trips a day. They do ask for donations and they require that the riders also register with Hockanum Valley. Mrs. Graziani also stated that last year they applied for a DOT grant to purchase a mini-van but did not get it. This year they are going to try again for a grant to replace the current van.

Registrar of Voters

Registrars Sue Luginbuhl and Wanda Deland presented this budget with no increase in the bottom line. Their advertising and printing budget was decreased as the 2008-09 allocation from the State for this was not used. They put themselves in for a raise. There are presently over 10,000 electors. There is no part time budget as the deputy registrars are not long needed. Sue stated that the record keeping is good and they do not need to do the canvassing they used to do. This budget included 4 referendum; the Finance Officer stated that the First Selectman advised him to change it to 5.

Planning Dept.

Town Planner Rob Phillips told the Board that his boards and commissions have made reductions to keep the budgets in line with the zero increase requested. The Economic Development Commission is currently working on the Airport Feasibility Study. The Plan of Implementation Committee met last night and the board members will be receiving the minutes of that soon. The residential rezoning is ongoing by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Zoning Board of Appeals and the Inland Wetlands Agency are regulatory commissions.

Board of Assessment Appeals
Permanent Building Committee
Water Pollution Control

The Finance Office stated that the BOAA and the PBC budgets will remain the same. The Water Pollution Control budget will keep \$1 in it to hold a place on the budget document.

The Finance Officer asked the question of whether he should invest the 08/09 capital reserve or keep it in the general fund. It was agreed by consensus of the Board that it should be invested as it has been in the past as a result of a motion previously made by the Board

**MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (WEHR) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE HEARING
AT 9:00 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Lori Smith, Recording Secretary